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GENERAL

1. USS HELENA to visit Mediterranean ports--The Navy Department reports that the cruiser HELENA, flagship of the Commander US Navy Forces Europe, will arrive at Gibraltar on 1 April en route to the Far East. Between 4 and 17 April, the HELENA will visit Toulon, Naples, Piraeus and Port Said.

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EUROPE-AFRICA

3. USSR: Possible campaign for Kurdish autonomy--Embassy Moscow believes that current Soviet press discussion of Iraq may foreshadow a full-scale propaganda build-up for Kurdish autonomy. According to Embassy Ankara, the Turkish Foreign Office considers that present Soviet troop movements in Iran are in support of a Kurdish movement directed primarily against Iraq rather than in preparation for open war against Turkey.

FAR EAST

4. CHINA: Soviet intentions regarding Manchuria---General Wedemeyer reports a growing belief in Chungking that the USSR, instead of annexing Manchuria, would be content to have in the Northeastern Provinces Soviet-sponsored Governments similar to the Outer Mongolian Republic. He has been informed that two northern Manchurian provinces have "elected" their own governors and that those appointed by the

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State Dept., OSD reviews completed

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Central Government are returning from Harbin where they had been waiting for two months to take over their duties.

THE AMERICAS

5. ARGENTINA: Orders for British planes--Charge Cabot reports that British aviation interests are taking full advantage of US restrictions on the sale of aircraft to Argentina. The British Embassy in Buenos Aires has acknowledged receiving an order for 20 Vickers-Viking planes for the Government airline "Fama" and has admitted that negotiations for the purchase of 500 aircraft engines are well advanced.
6. BRAZIL: Sale of arms to Dominican Republic--Embassy Rio reports that a Major Cobian Parra of the Dominican Republic was about to conclude the purchase of certain arms and ammunition from the Brazilian Government. The Brazilian Foreign Office made no objection to the sale since the Dominican Ambassador was sponsoring the purchase. The Brazilian Minister of War, however, readily consented to suspend the sale for the time being in order that the US Military Attache might determine if there were any "political complications" connected with the transaction.

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